



Chapter

11

Solid Waste Management Plan Actions

This chapter presents Fairfax County's SWMP actions

Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Plan Actions

This chapter presents Fairfax County's comprehensive and integrated plan for its solid waste management (SWM) system over the next 20 years, from the top to bottom levels of the waste hierarchy.

Overview of the Fairfax County SWMP Actions

Table 11-1 outlines Fairfax County's plan for its SWM system over the next 20 years for each stage of the hierarchy, as well as collection and transfer. The SWMP actions are described in more detail later in this chapter.

Source Reduction and Reuse

Source reduction, also known as "waste prevention," is the practice of designing, manufacturing, purchasing, or using materials (such as products and packaging) in ways that reduce the amount or toxicity of trash created.

Both source reduction and reuse can help reduce waste disposal and handling costs by avoiding the costs of recycling, municipal composting, landfilling, and combustion. Source reduction and reuse also decrease resource use, protecting the environment.

Table 11-2 presents alternatives selected by Fairfax County for the source reduction and reuse of solid waste in the county over the next 20 years.

Table 11-1. Summary of Fairfax County SWMP Actions

	Future Solid Waste Management System
Source Reduction and Reuse	<p>Improve public outreach and education to promote source reduction and reuse</p> <p>Promote public/private source reduction and reuse programs</p> <p>Promote a residential yard waste composting and/or grasscycling program</p> <p>Develop a regional approach to CDD source reduction and reuse with the MWCOG and others</p> <p>Implement county internal source reduction and reuse programs</p>
Recycling	<p>Promote public/private recycling programs</p> <p>Improve public outreach and education to promote recycling</p> <p>Increase business recycling by reducing commercial recycling thresholds</p> <p>Encourage increased CDD recycling by promoting CDD recycling at the I-66 Transfer Station (or other location)</p> <p>Revise regulations to enhance recycling, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand curbside recyclables collected to include mixed paper, plastic, and cardboard • Revise county code to require CDD recycling and/or recycling plans • Expand recyclables collected at government buildings • Encourage increased MSW recycling in county schools • Increase MSW recycling inspections <p>Address suitable recycling alternatives for existing multiunit buildings</p> <p>Continue current yard waste recycling system; contract with out-of-county composting facilities for dedicated capacity</p> <p>Explore additional waste exchange agreements to increase recycling</p> <p>Encourage VDOT to use recycled materials in road construction</p> <p>Support expansion of the capacity of existing MRFs, if quantities of recyclable materials warrants expansion</p> <p>Continue using the current special wastes management system</p>
Disposal	<p>Continue using the current disposal system (as the preferred alternative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – E/RRF as the primary disposal facility with out-of-county landfills for overflow and emergencies – CDD landfills both in- and out-of-county; contract with CDD landfills for dedicated disposal capacity <p>If negotiations with Covanta Fairfax, Inc. are unsuccessful, the county will use only out-of-county landfills for MSW disposal</p> <p>Foster a regional approach for CDD disposal</p> <p>Improve public outreach and education, specifically for CDD disposal issues</p>
Collection	<p>County oversees residential collection services through contracts with private companies</p> <p>Revise County Code to reflect residential service level changes and requirements</p> <p>Continue current yard waste collection system, encouraging private vacuumed leaf collection throughout the county</p> <p>Improve public outreach and education, specifically for education for CDD collection options</p> <p>Consider program to promote best management practices for CDD haulers</p> <p>Promote use of special fuels, filters, and special vehicles for collection</p> <p>Expand special wastes collection</p>
Transfer	<p>Continue using the current transfer system</p> <p>Reconfigure or construct waste handling areas at the I-66 Transfer Station, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Unloading areas for citizens and commercial cash customers (for increased safety and efficiency) – Areas to handle increased CDD and/or yard waste – Recycling center for CDD, if needed, at a county location <p>Add transfer capabilities to the I-95 Landfill Complex, if increases in transfer quantities or waste exchange agreements require it</p> <p>Improve public outreach and education to maximize the best management of CDD</p>

Table 11-2. Fairfax County Source Reduction and Reuse SWMP Alternatives

Source Reduction and Reuse SWMP Alternatives
Improve public outreach and education to promote source reduction and reuse
Promote public/private source reduction and reuse programs
Promote a residential yard waste composting and/or grasscycling program
Develop a regional approach to CDD source reduction and reuse with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) and others
Implement internal county source reduction and reuse programs

Public education and outreach are the most effective and efficient techniques for increasing source reduction and reuse in the county

Improve Public Outreach and Education



Public education and outreach are the most effective and efficient techniques for increasing source reduction and reuse in the county. Organizing education, technical assistance, and promotions aimed at increasing participation in source reduction and reuse activities, like reusing material and minimizing packaging, are crucial to successful

source reduction and reuse programs.

Most of the potentially viable source reduction and reuse programs for Fairfax County involve creating incentives for its citizens and businesses. An important part of source reduction involves “making voluntary or imposed behavioral changes in the use of materials.”¹

The challenge in implementing source reduction and reuse initiatives is to influence the way people purchase and use products and packaging. A county goal could be to encourage county residents to reuse products and packaging and buy products with an eye for waste reduction (for example, purchasing products with minimal packaging). Other valuable source reduction practices include purchasing durable, long-lasting goods and extending product useful life through preventive maintenance and repairs.

Appendix F of this document includes specific best practices for consumers, businesses, and manufacturers. A few key public outreach and education initiatives are discussed below.

Publicize the Network of Charitable Organizations and Other Reuse Shops

One public outreach and education initiative is for the county to more extensively publicize the county's network of charitable organizations and other reuse shops. Fairfax County has an established network of charitable organizations and thrift stores. By continuing to publicize and

¹ Philip O'Leary and Patrick Walsh, *Decision-Makers' Guide to Solid Waste Management, Volume II*, EPA530-R-95-023, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, August 1995.

expand this network, the county can increase both source reduction and reuse efforts. These organizations accept a wide range of reusable items, from furniture and electronics to books and clothing for sale or donation to the public. These organizations are effective at diverting items from the MSW stream and reducing the burden on the county's SWM system.

Assist in Reducing Unsolicited Mail

Another key public outreach and education initiative is assisting citizens in reducing unsolicited mail. Large quantities of paper generated in the county result from unwanted mail. Fairfax County can help minimize unnecessary paper generation by identifying mass mail reduction options and assisting in stopping delivery of free newspapers. Some practices include adding a link and endorsement on the county website to a do-not-mail organization that reduces unwanted mail and providing guidance to residents on asking United States Postal Service (USPS) and bulk mailers to remove addresses from their mail lists.



Promote CDD Source Reduction and Reuse Best Practices



Effective public outreach and education initiatives must be used to target builders and contractors and encourage them to employ best practices in reducing the volume of CDD generated at construction sites. Some CDD source reduction practices include leaving trees when possible during site clearing, altering floor plans to eliminate excess cut-offs, reusing off-cuts and plywood, and using crushed masonry material as fill for slabs or garages.²

The county will investigate requiring all new building and remodeling permits to contain language encouraging reduction of CDD as a condition for the permit.

Promote Yard Waste Source Reduction and Reuse Best Practices

Effective public outreach and education initiatives for yard waste focus on promoting source reduction and reuse best practices. Some of these practices include managing food scraps and yard trimmings through on-site composting, allowing grass clippings to remain on the lawn after mowing (grasscycling), and using mulching mowers.

Promoting public/private partnerships is a cost effective method to increase source reduction and reuse rates in Fairfax County

Promote Public/Private Source Reduction and Reuse Programs

Promoting private sector source reduction and reuse programs is a cost-effective method for the county to increase source reduction and reuse rates. By supporting, encouraging and publicizing these public/private partnerships, the county can enhance source reduction and reuse while minimizing the use of scarce county resources. Some potential public/private programs are discussed below.

² South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, *Construction and Demolition Debris Guidebook*, January 2001.